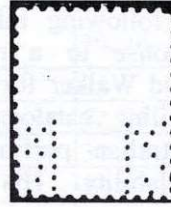

U.S. M47.5 – Should it be Rated A

By Jack Brandt (#LM 14)

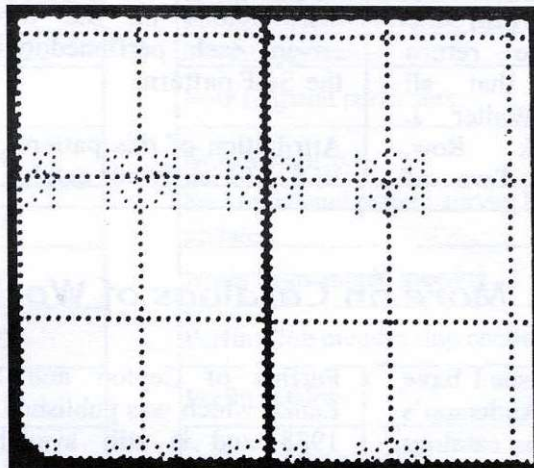
For years I have had a copy of M47.5 in which the perfin was only a partial pattern. (I'll keep anything till a better copy comes along.) While my copy was counted in the U. S. survey, many members may not have reported their partials. My copy is used, with illegible cancel, on Scott #634, all of which matches with the date of 1926 published in the U.S. catalog.



Recently I was sorting some U.S. perfins that had been waiting for a while, and found two mint blocks of 6, which had obviously originally been a single block of twelve. Looking closely at the perfins shows that the perforator was a multi-die machine. Also, for whatever reason, the person perforating the stamps took special effort to center the pattern at the junction of a four stamp block. Using this technique only half as many operations were required (5 rather than 10 punches to a 100 stamp sheet).

Was this done from laziness or for some other reason? Does anyone have a copy of this pattern that is well centered and complete on a single stamp?

As mentioned above, I collect space fillers till something better comes along. This find suggests that in this case it may never happen on a single stamp. So, don't throw anything away.



Editor's note: A note by Bob Szymanski attached to Jack's note states simply "I too have a mint block of 4 on Scott 634. I count it as one copy as it is one pattern on four stamps,"